

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY D - MR. ROBINSON

NEA - MR. DUBS

P - MR. HABIB

S/S:APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE NIACT

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220189 TOSEC 260077

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADORS FROM ACTING SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS

1. THE AMOCO OFFICE IN CHICAGO HAS JUST INFORMED US (12:15 LOCAL WASHINGTON TIME) THAT IT HAS JUST RECEIVED REPORTS FROM ITS PEOPLE ON THE SCENE THAT ISRAELI GUNBOATS RETURNED TO THE AREA AFTER INITIALLY DEPARTING AND PROCEEDED TO SHOOT AT BUOYS IN THE OPERATING RAMADAN FIELD, IN PARTICULAR AT A PLATFORM KNOWN AS RAMADAN-6, ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE. AMOCO IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ITS PERSONNEL AS WELL AS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRES BEING STARTED BY BULLETS WHICH IT SAYS ARE RICOCHETTING IN AND AROUND THE DRILLING RIGS. IT IS EVACUATING SOME OF ITS PEOPLE FROM THESE PLATFORMS. AMOCO STATES THESE EVENTS WERE OCCURRING AT ABOUT 3:00 P.M. LOCAL CAIRO TIME, AND THAT REPORTS CONCERNING THEM HAD JUST REACHED THE OFFICE HERE.

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2. FOR TEL AVIV: AMOCO'S REPORTING HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCURATE, BUT ANY FIRING BY ISRAELI GUNBOATS IN THAT AREA WOULD BE THE CAUSE OF GREATEST CONCERN TO US AND IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE HIGHLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND TOTALLY INEXCUSABLE. YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH URGENTLY WITH ISRAELIS, REPORT THIS ACCOUNT, GET THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS,

AND TELL THEM THAT IN ANY EVENT AS A MATTER OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE THERE SHOULD BE NO FIRING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THESE AMOCO INSTALLATIONS. TELL THEM WE ARE MAKING THE SAME POINT TO THE EGYPTIANS.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS: YOU WILL PRESUMABLY BE RECEIVING THE SAME REPORT FROM AMOCO THERE. YOU SHOULD CHECK THE FACTS AS CAREFULLY AS YOU CAN. CHECK URGENTLY WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND SEE WHETHER THEIR GUNBOATS MIGHT BE IN THE AREA AND EITHER DRAWING FIRE OR ACTUALLY FIRING THEMSELVES. TELL THEM THAT IN ANY EVENT AS A MATTER OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE THERE SHOULD BE NO FIRING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THESE AMOCO INSTALLATIONS. ROBINSON

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